AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of the claims:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1.(currently amended) A sheet processing apparatus for folding a sheet bundle at a predetermined position, comprising:

~~paired rotating bodies for folding said sheet bundle having nip portions;~~

pressing means ~~arranged to associate with the paired rotating bodies~~ for pressing ~~the~~ a predetermined position of said sheet bundle ~~into the nip portions of the paired rotating bodies~~ to fold the sheet bundle; and

~~means connected to the paired rotation bodies for providing rotation to the~~ paired rotating bodies for folding the sheet bundle supplied by the pressing means, said paired rotating bodies having nip portions contacting the sheet bundle, said nip portions having a high friction coefficient region and a low friction coefficient region less than the high friction coefficient region in friction coefficient, which are made of different materials, so that a pulling force of the rotating bodies to pull the sheet bundle pressed into the nip portions of the rotating bodies by the pressing means has an amount which does not separate a sheet of said sheet bundle contacting the rotating bodies from subsequent sheets in the sheet bundle when pulling the sheet bundle.

2.(original) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the paired rotating bodies has an outer surface with a reduced friction coefficient with respect to a surface of the other of the paired rotating bodies so that the pulling force does not cause the sheet contacting the rotating bodies to separate from the other sheets.

3.(currently amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said at least one of the paired rotating bodies has an outer surface extending along a direction of a rotating shaft thereof, said outer surface having ~~a~~ the high friction coefficient region and ~~a~~ the low friction coefficient region lower than the high friction coefficient region.

4.(original) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said paired rotating bodies have said high and low friction coefficient regions, the high friction coefficient region on said one rotating body being narrower than the high friction coefficient region on said other rotating body.

5.(original) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein one of said rotating bodies is positioned lower than the other of said rotating bodies of said paired rotating bodies.

6.(original) An image forming apparatus comprising: an image forming unit and said sheet processing apparatus according to claim 1 disposed in the image forming unit, said sheet processing apparatus folding at a predetermined position a sheet bundle formed with images thereupon by said image forming unit.

7.(new) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of said paired rotating bodies is formed of one roller having a circular portion forming the nip portion and non-circular portions, said circular portion having said high and low friction coefficient portions.

8.(new) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said circular portion is located between two non-circular portions in one roller, and said high friction coefficient portion is sandwiched between two low friction coefficient portions in one circular portion.

9.(new) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of said paired rotating bodies is formed of one roller having a circular portion and non-circular portions, said circular portion in one of said paired rotating bodies having said high and low friction coefficient portions and said circular portion in the other of said paired rotating bodies having only said low friction coefficient portion.